



## Frequently Asked Questions: The Proposed 2018 Bond Program

- 1. What will prevent a future Commissioners Court from turning new freeways over to NTTA to become tollways?**
  - a. The term “non-tolled” will be incorporated into the transportation bond election proposition for freeways, which will prevent future Courts from tolling the new freeways.
- 2. What value is there in the bond program for the citizens of Plano?**
  - a. Congestion in the north will add additional congestion to roadways in cities in the south like Plano and Richardson. If additional freeways are not built to distribute traffic, US 75 will continue being the magnet for additional traffic, thereby, causing additional congestion for Plano citizens. It is anticipated that Plano will be able to receive some funding for rehabilitation of critical thoroughfares so that the capacity of the thoroughfares is not impeded by poor pavement conditions.
- 3. What are the County’s long-term roadway needs – in terms of cost?**
  - a. Roadway needs are estimated through the year 2045 to be approximately \$12.6B. That equates to about \$2.5B every five years. The \$740M bond program would provide Collin County’s share in the partnership with TxDOT, the MPO and the cities for the next five years.

### Projected 2045 Roadway Needs

Outer Loop Freeway	\$ 3,324,000,000
US 380 Freeway, Denton Co to Hunt Co	\$ 1,738,000,000
New Southeast Collin County Freeways	\$ 1,557,000,000
US 75 Improvements, rebuild and widening	\$ 3,100,000,000
Countywide Significant Thoroughfares	\$ 2,043,000,000
<u>Dallas North Tollway Ext, US 380 to Grayson Co</u>	<u>\$ 826,000,000</u>
<i>Total 2045 Needs</i>	<i>\$12,558,000,000</i>

**4. Why isn't the County considering transit?**

- a. Transit is actually part of the County's long-range Mobility Plan. However, planning for how additional transit can improve mobility in the County has not been conducted. Therefore, the Commissioners Court limited the transportation part of this bond program to roadways.

**5. Where can I find more information about the bond program?**

- a. Go the County's website and follow the banner about the bond program, or use this link: [https://www.collincountytx.gov/commissioners\\_court/Pages/2018-Bond-Program.aspx](https://www.collincountytx.gov/commissioners_court/Pages/2018-Bond-Program.aspx).

**6. Is it true that the County cannot hold another election for the propositions for three years if this election is not approved by the voters?**

- a. The exact propositions could not be proposed for three years. However, since the propositions for this election are so generic, the County could hold another election as soon as specific projects are further defined.

**7. The previous bond program had funds for city thoroughfares that were a 50/50 match between the County and the City. Will that be the same in the bond program?**

- a. That has not been determined. The proposition for thoroughfares (\$140M) will include projects initiated by the County as well as some requested by cities. The Commissioners Court will not determine the criteria for selecting city projects, including the match, until after the election.

**8. Will any of the bond funds be used to provide a local match for State projects?**

- a. It is anticipated that some funds from both the \$600M proposition and the \$140M proposition will be used to expedite some State projects. This will not be to satisfy a State policy but to fill any gap in funding that the State is experiencing that could delay projects that are urgent to relieve congestion in Collin County.

**9. What is the County's bond rating and what interest rate does the County expect to get for the bonds?**

- a. Our financial advisor built in an interest rate of 5% into the bond sale models when determining the County's debt capacity. The first week of July '18, the market for 30 year bonds was 3%. We do plan to sell 20 year bonds and the rates are typically slightly lower than 30 year bonds. Actual interest rates will be determined when the bonds are offered in the marketplace. The County's debt is currently rated AAA by both bond rating agencies and the County does not expect that to change. The County expects to sell bonds, as needed, at the beginning of each calendar year.